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positively deleterious, as the pipes and galleries are made of very porous materials and admit of the escape of poisonous matter sufficient to contaminate the subsoil, and as street excavations are constantly being made, exhalations from this poisoned earth are of daily occurrence. Says a highly respectable and competent hygienist on this subject:

"It was at this time that the subterraneous drainage works were commenced, a colossal work and destined to produce good future results; but because of the great carelessness displayed in the beginning and the bad quality of the materials used, highly competent Brazilian hygienists attribute to the drainage system the perpetuation of yellow fever by means of the exudations from the pipes into the subsoil of the town, but it is without doubt true that the new works caused the complete extinction of the disease until 1868."—(Dr. Aureliano Portugro.)

In the year 1868 it is believed that the disease was reimported (and by another American ship), and up to the end of 1869 there were 293 deaths from yellow fever.

From 1870 to 1874 yellow fever killed 5,922 persons; in 1873 alone there were 3,659 deaths.

From 1875 to 1879 the disease increased in intensity and killed 7,218 victims, including the great epidemic of 1876, in which year 3,476 persons died from this fell disease.

From 1880 to 1889 there were 9,563 deaths from yellow fever. In 1890 there were only 719 deaths, whilst 1891 had 4,454 victims and 1892 4,312. At this time the population was estimated at 566,800, and the death rate was 33.5 per 1,000.

In 1893 the disease victimized only 742, whilst in 1894, 4,715 died of the disease, the greatest number yet in any one year, due perhaps to the fact of the town being blockaded and the garbage not having a free exit. In 1895 the number fell again to 818. In the present year of 1896 we have another epidemic, but it will not be as great as in several of the former years.

The above is a sad picture, and I hope something may be done toward stamping out the pest, or at least for its amelioration, but I doubt it, for every year, after the evil is done, the newspapers, the authorities, everybody, cry out against the bad sanitary and quarantine arrangements, and threaten to bring about great reforms, but as yet no real great improvement has been effected, and the evil remains without remedy.

More effective drainage, more effective disinfection, more effective isolation, better habitations for the lowest class, a better supply of filtered water, and cleaner streets are all absolutely necessary.

Respectfully, yours,

R. CLEARY, M. D.,

Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

CUBA.

Sanitary report of Habana.

HABANA, CUBA, June 6, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that, notwithstanding the hot, rainy weather which is now prevailing here, yellow fever is still almost entirely confined to the Spanish troops, there having been 9 deaths among them from that disease in the military hospital during the last week and none anywhere else in the city.

Smallpox still exists here to a considerable extent, as also in many

other places in the western half of the island, and in Cienfuegos it is an active epidemic, 20 to 30, I am informed, dying of it daily.

Measles, which has been very prevalent among children here for several weeks, does not abate, though the mortality from it is small.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. M. BURGESS,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

Sanitary report of Santiago—Smallpox epidemic.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, *May 23, 1896.*

SIR: I have the honor of sending you the following report on the sanitary condition of Santiago de Cuba for the week ended May 23:

The mortality for this period has been 58; of these, 10 were from smallpox, 2 from yellow fever, 3 from typhomalaria, 5 from tuberculosis, 6 from dysentery, 3 from pernicious fever, 8 from entero-colitis, 12 from remittent fever, and the rest from common diseases, acute and chronic, of noncontagious character.

Smallpox can now be considered epidemic, as the cases are many in number and are not confined to a determined quarter of the city, but are scattered all over the town, and the number of invasions increases daily. In one house alone there are 10 cases. Yellow fever still prevails more or less, although the mortality has somewhat decreased.

Malaria in all its forms and varieties is causing great havoc among the population, and dysentery is the cause of many deaths.

The rainy season has at last set in, and, owing to the dampness prevailing, bowel complaints are very common, especially among the children, under the form of entero-colitis of severe type.

Respectfully,

HENRY S. CAMINERO, M. D.,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

Increase of smallpox at Cienfuegos.

The United States consul at Cienfuegos, under date of June 2, 1896, reports 54 deaths from smallpox in that city during the week ended May 31, 1896, an increase of 12 as compared with the previous week.

Increase of yellow fever among the troops at Sagua la Grande.

Under date of May 25, 1896, the United States consul at Sagua la Grande, reports that yellow fever is on the increase amongst the troops at Sagua, but states that the number of cases is not given.

EGYPT.

Cholera epidemic in Alexandria—Deaths from cholera in Cairo.

CAIRO, EGYPT, *May 15, 1896.*

SIR: Adverting to my dispatches dated October 21 and November 27, last, respectively, I have to inform the Department that with the return of hot weather cholera has broken out at Alexandria, and promises to rage throughout the heated term. The outbreak really dates from the last week in December, since which time, up to a month ago, Alexandria has had two or three deaths weekly.

From the middle of April there have been one or more deaths daily,